



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
17 May 1984

Cable

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~~17 May 1984~~

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PERSIAN GULF:

Oil Shippers More Cautious

Oil purchasers may be temporarily postponing shipments until the situation clarifies following the attack on Tuesday by an Iranian F4 aircraft on a Saudi Arabian supertanker about 30 miles from Ras Tanura. Iran's Supreme Defense Council on Tuesday restated its intention to retaliate for attacks in the Gulf, and Iraq probably is preparing for widespread airstrikes. Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council are meeting today to discuss the latest developments of the war.

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On Tuesday night, Iranian Assembly Speaker and Supreme Defense Council spokesman Rafsanjani announced that the Supreme Defense Council believes the increase in Iraqi attacks on shipping calling at Khark Island was instigated by France and the US. He warned that Tehran will prevent other Gulf countries from exporting oil to the extent that Iran's exports are hindered by Iraqi attacks. Rafsanjani also warned Iran was prepared to meet US intervention.

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Iran's decision to retaliate by harassing the shipping of Iraq's Arab allies has increased the risk of an air clash between Iran and one of the Gulf states. Saudi Arabia may order its pilots to become more aggressive if Iran repeats its attack. Rafsanjani's statement indicates that Iran intends to retaliate for each Iraqi attack but does not yet plan to attempt a closing of the Strait of Hormuz.

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Gulf Cooperation Council Reaction

Following an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday, the Kuwaiti Government publicly accused Iran of attacking its tankers earlier this week. The government statement claimed that new information had confirmed Iran's role in the strikes. Saudi Defense Minister Sultan, who arrived in Kuwait late Tuesday, will remain there through the end of the week, according to press reports.

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WESTERN EUROPE- Concern About Sakharovs' Condition
USSR:

West European governments are growing concerned about the medical condition of dissident Andrey Sakharov, who has been on a hunger strike since 2 May to gain medical treatment abroad for his ailing wife [REDACTED] b3

Sakharov's children say that his wife, Elena Bonner, began a hunger strike on 12 May. Her application for medical treatment abroad was ignored by Soviet authorities, and, [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] b3

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b3 [REDACTED] The Soviets may be forced to take medical steps soon to save Sakharov's life. They hospitalized him on the 16th day of his last hunger strike in 1981 and threatened to force-feed him, but ultimately gave in to his demands to permit his relative to emigrate [REDACTED] b1 b3

[REDACTED]

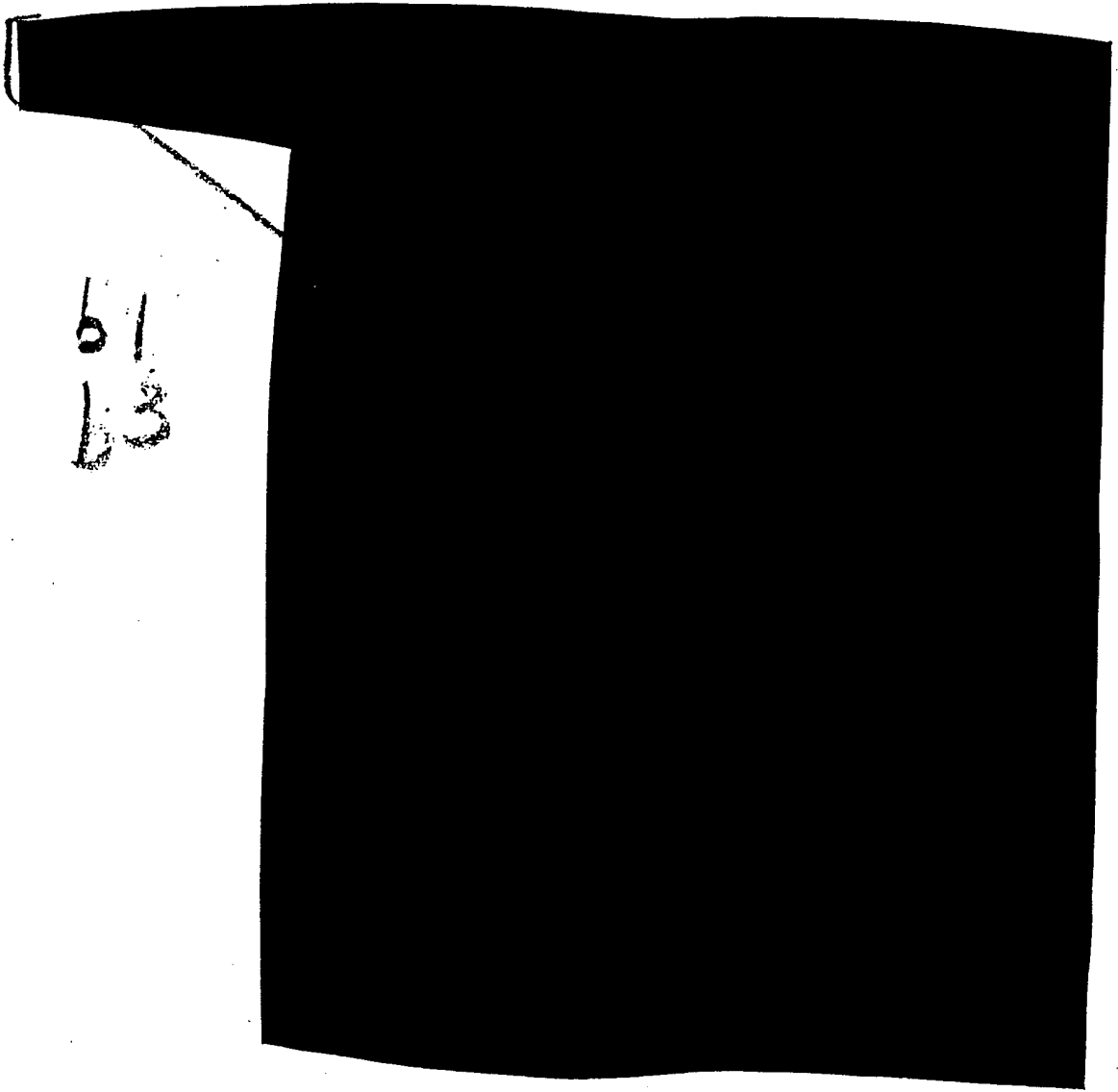
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The Soviets have no incentive to accommodate Sakharov other than to mitigate international condemnation should he die. By refusing to give a temporary exit permit to Sakharov's wife—which they have done in the past—they have created a situation that will be difficult to resolve without either critically harming Sakharov or caving in to international criticism [REDACTED] b3

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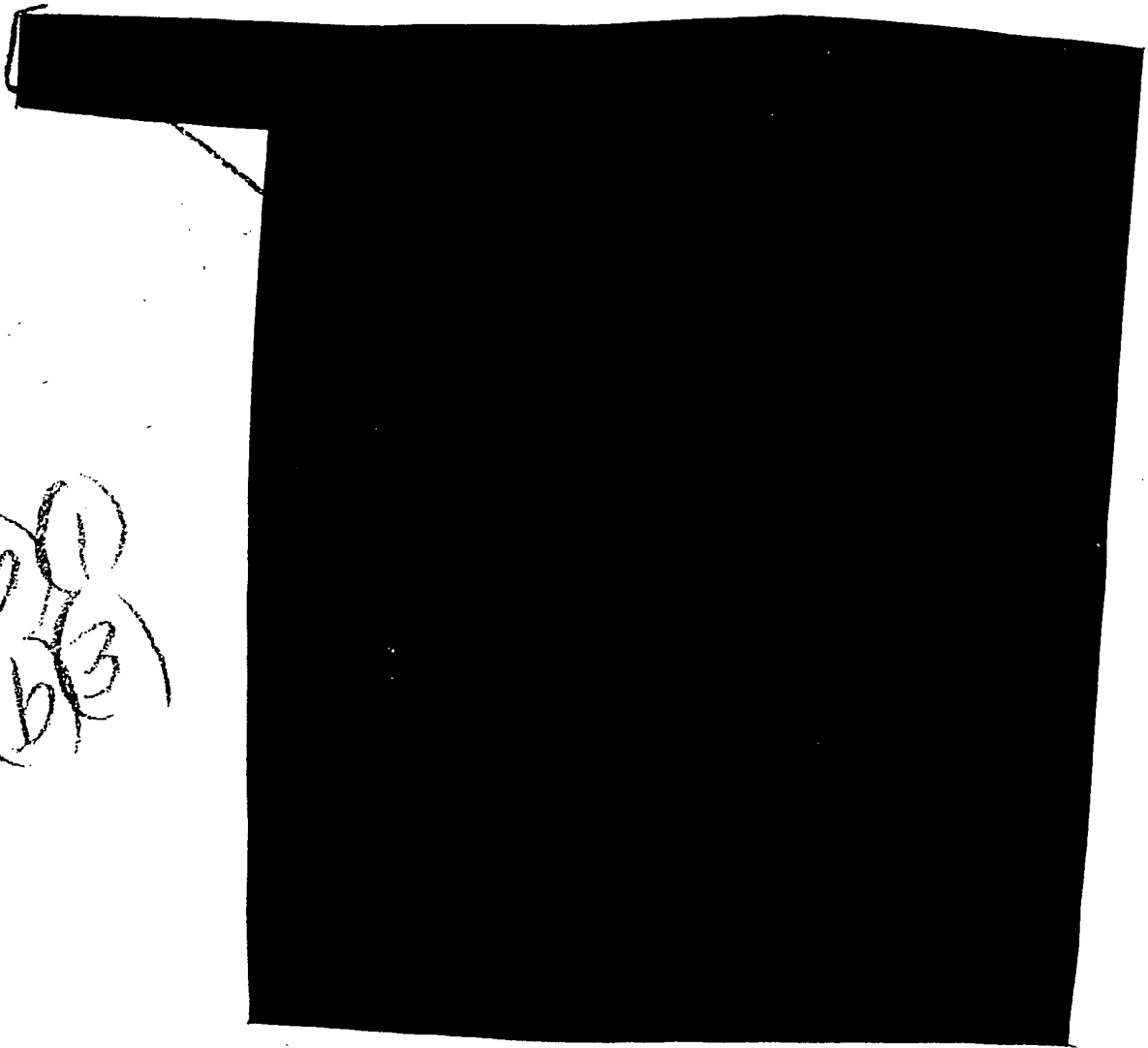
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PHILIPPINES:

Trend Against Marcos Continues

President Marcos appears to be struggling with the question of how to minimize the damage from the election results.

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With almost 60 percent of the tally complete, an independent group estimates that the opposition is leading in 73 districts, the ruling party in 81, and independents in 14. The status of 15 seats remains undetermined. In Manila 87 percent of the vote has been counted, and the opposition is leading in 15 of 21 contests. The Secretary General of the ruling party has said the opposition and the independents will end up with about 79 seats—which would increase opposition strength in the Assembly at least fivefold.

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Some vote-tampering may be continuing at the local level. In Cebu, a sweep by the opposition predicted in early returns has been reversed, provoking opposition anger and legal challenges. Imelda Marcos—governor of the Manila metropolitan area—is reportedly furious over the outcome in the capital, and she may be putting pressure on the elections commissioner.

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Marcos and his ruling party have been jolted by the results and face decisions on how far to go in manipulating the vote. The elections commission has tampered with results in the past, and recent actions by the President and Mrs. Marcos suggest that official results could vary significantly from independent tallies.

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The ruling party could legitimately establish the lead as more returns arrive from the countryside, where it is strongest. Early media reports of numerous opposition victories, however, probably will make voters skeptical of major changes in the vote count.

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If Marcos were to accept the opposition's gain he could use them to his advantage in loan negotiations with international bankers, who are looking at the election as a measure of political stability in the Philippines. His prestige, and pressures from within the ruling party, however, will probably force Marcos to manipulate the vote in order to limit opposition seats.

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Marcos probably knows that massive manipulation of election returns would provoke large antigovernment demonstrations in the next week, and this is likely to constrain his actions. No matter what action Marcos takes, the results are certain to be viewed as a serious blow to his prestige.

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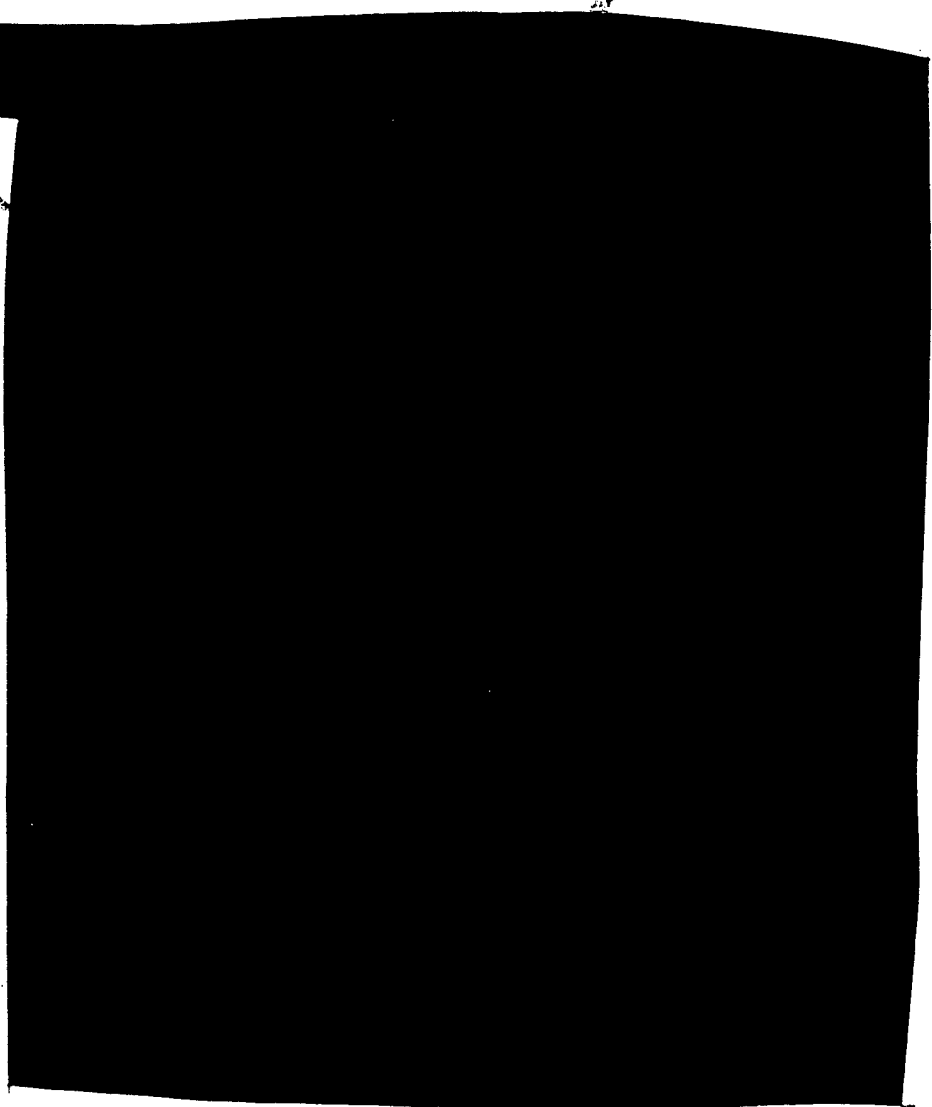
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USSR-US: Harassment of Journalists

Soviet authorities have stepped up harassment of American journalists.

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The level of government harassment has dramatically increased during the last several months.

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The campaign apparently reflects the Soviet leadership's pessimistic view of prospects for an improvement in bilateral relations any time soon.

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USSR-SPAIN: Warm Welcome for King

Moscow evidently sought to exploit the visit of King Juan Carlos to demonstrate that it maintains cordial relations with some West European countries despite strains in US-Soviet relations. The visit, which ended yesterday, included a welcome at the airport by Premier Tikhonov and Foreign Minister Gromyko and a meeting and formal dinner with General Secretary Chernenko. In his dinner speech the Soviet leader urged Spain to expand its role in peace building and said again that the USSR will not use nuclear weapons against Spain as long as Spain does not have any on its territory.

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The Soviets presumably hope to encourage Spain to display greater independence from Washington by encouraging Madrid to take an active role in reducing East-West tensions.

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LEBANON-SYRIA-IRAN: Revolutionary Guards Leaving

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The Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Baalabakk, in the Bekaa Valley, have begun leaving Lebanon permanently, according to press reports. Syria reportedly is behind the move because it wants to weaken radical Lebanese Shia groups such as Hizballah and Islamic Amal.

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Comment: The departure of the Revolutionary Guards, who support the radical Shia factions opposing moderate Shia leader Nabih Barri, would serve the interest of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments. Both want to stabilize the situation in Lebanon and probably calculate that strengthening Barri would help. Tehran would not willingly withdraw the Revolutionary Guards but is in no position to refuse a Syrian demand. Tehran, however, will continue aiding radical, pro-Iranian Shias through its diplomatic and unofficial representatives.

TUNISIA-LIBYA: Ambassador Recalled

Tunisia recalled its ambassador from Tripoli yesterday, following a week of increasing tensions with Libya.

the recall was in response to Libya's seizure of three Tunisian border guards and its efforts to implicate Tunisia in the attack on Qadhafi last week.

that 200 Libyan students marched on and threatened attacks on the Presidents of Sudan, Egypt, and Tunisia.

The Tunisians apparently wish to stand up to Libyan bullying. They failed to mention the border clash on Tuesday in their recall announcement, however, suggesting they hope to avoid further military incidents. The Libyan Embassy

may have organized the march without urging from Tripoli. Even so, the marchers' threats may presage increased Libyan subversion against its neighbors.

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IRAN: Final Round of Elections

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[REDACTED] The Council may have invalidated some of the races at Khomeini's behest, and his endorsement of the election review process was intended to silence criticism that the elections were blatantly manipulated. Spokesmen for the regime have announced that the new Assembly will be inaugurated on time late this month, implying that whatever happens in the runoffs, results in at least two-thirds of the 270 constituencies will be declared valid, [REDACTED]

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In Brief

Middle East

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Americas

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— Jamaican opposition's demand for inquiry on police in action in last week's Kingston gunfight potentially embarrassing to Prime Minister Seaga ... [REDACTED]

USSR

— TASS criticizing Western Europe Union plan to eliminate remaining restrictions on conventional arms production by West Germany ... reflects Soviet concern about possible increase in Bonn's influence in European defense planning.

Western Europe

— EC Foreign Ministers yesterday agreed on need to restrict exports of five substances used in chemical weapons ... differences over EC's legal authority delay Community-wide measures, but some members have enacted national controls. [REDACTED]

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